

Message Text

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ORIGIN DPW-01

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EA/ LC: MR. MURPHY

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EA: MR. GODLEY

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P R 282259 Z JUN 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USDEL JEC PARIS

JCRC NKP

CINCPAC

USDAO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 127558

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VS, CA

SUBJECT: MISSING NEWSMEN - FPJMT

REF: A. SAIGON 11278

B. PHNOM PENH 6408

C. TOKYO 7888 (NOTAL)

D. STATE 124608 (NOTAL)

1. IN RAISING SUBJECT OF MIAS AND FOREIGN CIVILIANS LOST
IN CAMBODIA IN FPJMT (PER REF A), WE SUGGEST YOU CALL
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OTHER SIDE'S ATTENTION TO REPEATED REPORTS IN NEWS MEDIA THAT JOURNALISTS OF SEVERAL NATIONALITIES CONTINUE TO BE HELD BY COMMUNIST FORCES IN CAMBODIA.

2. SOME OF THESE NEWS REPORTS ARE BASED ON INVESTIGATIONS EARLIER THIS YEAR BY AMERICAN FREE- LANCE JOURNALIST ZALIN P. GRANT. COPIES OF GRANT'S REPORTS WERE SENT BY POUCH FROM DEPT. (D/ PW) ON MAY 15 TO EMBASSIES SAIGON, PHNOM PENH, VIENTIANE, AND BANGKOK, AND TO JCRC.

3. GRANT'S INFO COMES PRIMARILY FROM INTERVIEWS WITH RETURNED ARVN POW'S, MANY OF WHOM HAD BEEN DETAINED IN EASTERN CAMBODIA IN GENERAL AREA WHERE SOME OF THE MISSING JOURNALISTS WERE EARLIER REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN HELD. HIGHLIGHTS ARE AS FOLLOWS: ONE ARVN RETURNEE SAID HE SAW APPROXIMATELY SIX CAUCASIANS IN EASTERN CAMBODIA ON 1 MAY 1972 WHO WERE SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED TO HIM BY A NORTH VIETNAMESE GUARD AS FOREIGN JOURNALISTS. THREE MORE RETURNEES REPORTED THAT ON OR ABOUT 6 MARCH 1973 THEY WERE TOLD BY A NORTH VIETNAMESE GUARD NEAR MIMOT IN EASTERN CAMBODIA THAT FOREIGN JOURNALISTS WERE BEING HELD IN THE AREA. OTHER RETURNEES REPORTED HEARING THE VC SPEAK ABOUT DETAINED FOREIGN JOURNALISTS AT VARIOUS TIMES, INCLUDING IN 1971, JULY 1972, DECEMBER 1972, FEBRUARY 1973.

4. IN ADDITION TO GRANT'S MATERIAL, WE HAVE RECEIVED OTHER REPORTS INDICATING JOURNALISTS AND OTHER FOREIGNERS MAY BE HELD IN CAMBODIA. ONE SUCH REPORT STATES THAT THERE IS A KHMER ROUGE DETENTION CAMP IN TEONG KHMUNG DISTRICT, KOMPONG CHAM PROVINCE, ABOUT TWO KILOMETERS SOUTH OF KBAK DAMREI VILLAGE (XTO18973), IN WHICH " TWO AMERICAN NEWSMEN" AND " ONE AMERICAN PILOT" ARE HELD, ALONG WITH LARGER NUMBERS OF CAMBODIAN PERSONNEL, AMONG THEM " SEVEN CAMBODIAN NEWSMEN."

5. IN RAISING THIS SUBJECT, WE RECOMMEND US REPS IN FPJMT MAKE CLEAR WE ARE DOING SO IN RESPONSE TO WIDESPREAD PUBLIC EFFORTS BY INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISTS TO OBTAIN INFO ON THEIR MISSING COLLEAGUES. COMMUNIST SIDE UNDOUBTEDLY AWARE OF THIS CONCERN, AND OF APPEALS BY CONFIDENTIAL

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OTHER GOVERNMENTS ON BEHALF OF THESE PEOPLE. WE ARE RAISING SUBJECT IN FPJMT WITH HOPE THAT DRV AND PRG REPS WILL UNDERTAKE TO FURNISH INFORMATION ON ALL FOREIGNERS WHO MAY CONTINUE TO BE DETAINED IN CAMBODIA. ROGERS

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